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The paper summarises the research needs and future approaches in developing rational and successful agroforestry systems. Some of the authors' suggestions are : An inventory of traditional systems of agroforestry systems are required to be made through diagnostic survey, Traditional systems of agroforestry need to be rejuvenated with suitable modifications, Choice of species, number of trees per ha (tree intensity), spatial distribution and location of these trees should be determined through research studies, Studies on tree-crop interface including rooting behaviour and shading effects of tree species should be made, Management aspects (silviculture practices) are required to be worked out, Improvement of the soil productivity, fertility and other (allelopathic) effects need to be studied, Agroforestry design and experimental techniques including statistical analysis should be standardised, and economic/socio-economic analysis of tangible and intangible benefits through agroforestry interventions should be studied.